

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

25717

OSD Review Completed

INFORMATION

March 18, 1971

TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*

SUBJECT: Annual Review of US Chemical Warfare
and Biological Research Programs

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

Under Secretary Irwin has reported to you that the Under Secretaries Committee has completed its first annual review of our chemical warfare and biological research programs. *A*

The Committee agreed to study further the public affairs guidelines on these programs and the question of what constitutes an adequate chemical capability in light of our policy calling for a deterrent and retaliatory capability. Defense will take the lead in these studies.

Moreover, the Committee approved recommendations to (1) remedy deficiencies in our defensive capabilities, (2) place more attention and priority on intelligence gathering and analysis in this field, and (3) form an interagency ad hoc committee to define the components of our defensive biological program. In addition, the Committee took the following actions:

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

- Agreed to the termination of chemical crop destruction operations now.
- Endorsed Defense's position to continue US support for the Vietnamese with tear gas, though any substantial increase in support would be authorized by Defense only in consultation with interested agencies.
- Agreed to review Defense plans regarding the disposition of agent Orange. (The ban on the use of Orange, issued in April of 1970, remains in effect.)

I have issued a memorandum stating you have noted the report and directed

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[Attached to HAK to Ch. NSC Under Secretaries Committee]

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that (1) Defense request that the study by the National Academy of Sciences regarding the ecological and physiological effects of herbicide use in Vietnam give due consideration to the questions of the restoration and future use of sprayed areas and possible steps to minimize further deterioration; and (2) the Committee's review of the components of the defensive biological program be forwarded to you by August 15, 1971.

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